

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 02164 201026Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9869

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 2164

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, GB, US

SUBJ: FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT BONGO

1. FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT BONGO AUGUST 19 PROVIDED OCCASION FOR BRIEF REVIEW OF STATE OF US-GABONESE RELATIONS, ENDING IN MUTUALLY-AGREED CONCLUSION THAT COMPLEMENTARITY OF MANY POLITICAL INTERESTS AND GROWING ECONOMIC LINKS POINT TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL TIES. PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT SUCH WOULD BE THE CASE AND ASKED FOR CONTINUED USG ASSISTANCE IN HIS EFFORTS TO ATTRACT QUALIFIED AMERICAN FIRMS TO GABON.

2. IN THIS REGARD, I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY THUS OFFERED TO MAKE FINAL PITCH FOR OPEN COMPETITION IN WHICH AMERICAN FIRMS HAVE FAIR CHANCE AT WINNING CONTRACTS. CITING SEVERAL CASES OVER PAST TWO YEARS IN WHICH AMERICAN COMPANIES HAVE FELT CARDS WERE STACKED AGAINST THEM BY ENTRENCHED FRENCH INTERESTS, I TOLD PRESIDENT THAT GABON COULD GET BETTER QUALITY AT LOWER PRICE BY STRICT APPLICATION OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCEDURES, AND AT SAME TIME WOULD ENCOURAGE AMERICAN FIRMS TO WORK HERE. PRESIDENT MADE NO DIRECT COMMENT, BUT REAFFIRMED HIS WILLINGNESS TO SEE VISITING REPRESENTATIVES OF SERIOUS AMERICAN FIRMS.

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 02164 201026Z

3. WE PARTED TO EXPRESSIONS OF MUTUAL ESTEEM, AND WITH PRESIDENT'S ASSURANCE TO DCM YATES (WHO ACCOMPANIED ME) THAT HE LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUING CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH LATER AS CHARGE' AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITH A FUTURE AMBASSADOR.STEIGMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, GB, US, (BONGO, EL HADJ OMAR)
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